

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims and substitute them for the pending claims with the same numbers.

1-7 (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A method of making a porous ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene article, comprising:

- a) extruding a pseudo-gel comprising an ultrahigh molecular weight ~~polyethylene polymeric material into a lamella~~ at a temperature above about 140°C to form an extruded article;
- b) stretching the ~~lamella extruded article~~ at a temperature below about 50°C into a polymer comprising a node of folded lamella and a fibril orientation to form a node and fibril microstructure; and
- c) heating the stretched extruded article to anneal annealing the polymer polymeric material at a temperature sufficient to define the node and fibril orientation of the node and fibril microstructure, to form the porous ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene article.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein stretching the ~~lamella extruded article~~ comprises stretching at a temperature of up to room temperature.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein prior to stretching the ~~lamella extruded article~~, the method further comprises quenching the ~~lamella extruded article~~ sufficient to bring the temperature of the lamella extruded article below a melt temperature of the ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene polymeric material.

11. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein prior to extruding the pseudo-gel, the method comprises:

forming a pseudo-gel of ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene material and a solvent.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of mineral oil and paraffin oil.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein prior to stretching the ~~lamella~~ extruded article, the method comprises removing a portion of the solvent.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein ~~prior to~~ forming the pseudo-gel~~[[,]]-the method~~ comprises, combining the ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene material with the solvent, wherein the amount of the ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene material is on the order of 5 to 30 percent by weight.

15. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the annealing temperature comprises a temperature above the crystalline melting point of the ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene material.

16. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the annealing temperature is on the order of 147°C.

17-30 (canceled)

31. (new) The method of claim 8, wherein the pseudo-gel is extruded in subpart a) at a temperature above about 180°C to about 275°C.

32. (new) The method of claim 8, wherein the extruded article is stretched in subpart b) at a temperature below about 30°C.

33. (new) The method of claim 8, wherein extruding the pseudo-gel in subpart a) comprises pressing the pseudo-gel through a die.

34. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein prior to stretching the extruded article, the method comprises extracting the solvent using a volatile solvent and then evaporating the volatile solvent.

35. (new) The method of claim 8, wherein the extruded article stretched in subpart b) is stretched at a temperature below a melt temperature of the ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene polymeric material, and the node and fibril microstructure comprises a folded chain lamellar structure.